GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3829
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
LABOURERS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Suraj

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of labourers engaged in the agriculture sector against the total work force in the country has been constantly decreasing in the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the number and percentage of the total work force engaged in the agricultural sector at present in comparison to 1993-94; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract the workforce to agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan Period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. According to the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1993-1994 and 2004-05, the percentage of labourers engaged in agriculture has decreased from 64.75% to 58.49% of the total workforce in the unorganized sector. The decrease is due to migration to urban areas.

(c): No further survey has been conducted.

(d): The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The scheme which was being implemented in 330 districts has since been extended to 604 districts in the country from April 2008.